[The Deputy Chairman]

It will not be taken up today. That is all.

**श्री राम अवधेश सिंह :** महोदया, मेरी बात भी सुन लीजिए । ...(व्यवधान)

**उपसभापति :** लीडर आफ दि हाऊस की बात सुन लें । मैं आपकी बात भी सुनूंगी, आप बैठिए तो । पहले लीडर आफ दि हाऊस को सुनने दो ।

**श्री एन० के० पी० साल्वे :** मैडम,... (व्यवधान)

**उपसभापति :** बैठिये तो, उनकी बात सुनने दो, बैठिये तो । The Leader of the House is on his legs.

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## RE. STOPPAGE OF CRUDE OIL FROM ASSAM TO BARAUNI

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): Madam Deputy Chairman, some honourable Members raised the issue of the Assam agitation, I think, yesterday and, also, the day before yesterday, my friend here raised the issue and I tried to react to the comments made by these friends. Since I have got a meeting just now, may I give out my reaction, if you permit me?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are permitted.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Because they are also interested in this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please do it. There are four people who raised the issue.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am just reacting—this is not a statement.

Madam, I would like to tell the House that the Assam students have gone on an agitation since the 7th of August and they are picketing near about oil installations and oil production centres. As a result of that, from 7th to 16th of August we have lost nearly 49,500 tonnes of crude oil valued at Rs. 16 crores. And from the 16th to the end of August—I say "end of August" because they have said that they would carry on the agitation till the end of August—the loss of crude would be nearly 1,07,000 tonnees and in terms of rupee value it will be Rs. 34 crores. ...(Interruptions)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No interruption, please. Let him make his statement.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is not a debate; I am just sharing the information with the House.

The total loss will be round about Rs. 50 crores. Now, the loss of production in crude refining, crude processing, in Barauni till August 22nd, that is, yesterday, was about 79,000 tonnes and, in BPRL, 30,000 tonnes. In rupee value it will be round about Rs. 41—42 crores.

Now, the main demand of these students is that we should not build a loop line, which we are constructing now in Assam, and they think that by constructing this loop line we are taking the Assam oil outside Assam. So, they say, we should not take oil from Assam to outside their State. Now, the loop line is constructed for the purpose of ensuring smooth supply of crude oil to the existing refineries so that the capacity that has been built up already is maintained all the time. The capacities of these refineries in Barauni, may be, Guwahati or BPRL should be maintained and there should not be any obstruction or any hindrance. For that purpose we want to construct a crude pipeline, and this is not meant to take extra crude from Assam to outside. I am talking only of the pipeline.

I went to Assam recently. I made the position of the Government clear to the Government there and addressed a press conference. In that press conference, the Chief Minister was present and other Ministers also were present. There was a presentation also to them all, to the journalists also. So, we have assured that this pipeline is not meant to carry extra crude outside Assam. This is only meant to ensure the supply of crude to the existing refineries to utilise the existing capacity. That is all.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Why concede that point?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am not conceding anything at all. I am referring to this loop-line only. This loop-line is only, meant that is the Plan—to ensure the supply of crude to these refineries so that we can use this capacity available to the maximum. That is all. So, I have made this clear to the Chief Minister of Assam. I wrote a letter to him on 6th June itself. Today also I have written a letter to him. Still the agitation is going on. They have disrupted the oil supply, both production and supply of oil to the refineries. The Barauni Refinery has stopped. The BPRL has stopped. But the Guwahati Refinery us running. It may also stop.

Therefore, I appeal to the student community there which is agitating, to withdraw their agitation. It is not justified at all. I do not know how to make them trust me, believe me. I have done everything in my power to convince them that this loop-line is only meant for supplying oil to the existing refineries, to utilise the existing capacity to the maximum, nothing else.

So, these are the facts. I want to say only one more thing. I appeal to the student community to stop this agitation, not to harass our personnel. My personnel are being harassed every day. They are scared, they are under fear, they are threatened, intimidated. That should not happen. Now oil is so vital. Therefore, my appeal on behalf of all of us here to the student community is to stop the agitation so that the production and supply go on smoothly.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam, a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order. It is not against you. You are not a student. You are not objecting. You are not on the agitation. You sit down. How do you come into it? Mrs. Chakravarty, neither are you a student, nor are you sitting in *dharna* there. You are sitting in this House. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam, may I have your permission? I have got a very urgent meeting. I have no objection for a debate. But since I have got a very important meeting just now, I have got to go. I seek the permission of the Chair and also the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Yes, you are permitted to go.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): Madam, I crave your indulgence (*Interruptions*)